



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 5037***

LCO No. 606



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 (a) Any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328,  
4 22-331 or 22-331a who (1) has reasonable cause to suspect that an  
5 animal observed in the course of the officer's employment is being or  
6 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section  
7 53-247, [and] or (2) files a verified petition with the Superior Court  
8 pursuant to section 22-329a shall make a written report to the  
9 Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of this  
10 section.

11 (b) The written report shall be made by the officer as soon as  
12 practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after the officer has  
13 reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been harmed, neglected  
14 or treated cruelly pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this

15 section or has filed [the] a verified petition. Each written report shall  
16 contain, if known: (1) The address where the animal was observed and  
17 the name and address of the owner or other person responsible for  
18 care of the animal; (2) the name and a description of the animal; (3) the  
19 nature and extent of the harm, neglect or cruelty to the animal; (4) the  
20 approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty occurred; (5)  
21 any information concerning any previous harm to, neglect of or cruelty  
22 toward the animal; (6) the circumstances under which such harm,  
23 neglect or cruelty came to be known by the officer; and (7) the name  
24 and address of every person the officer reasonably suspects to be  
25 responsible for such harm, neglect or cruelty.

26 (c) Not later than November 1, 2011, and monthly thereafter, the  
27 Commissioner of Agriculture shall send a report to the Commissioner  
28 of Children and Families containing all of the information received  
29 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the preceding month.

30 Sec. 2. Section 17a-106d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

32 Not later than one week after receiving a report pursuant to  
33 subsection (c) of section 22-329b, as amended by this act, the  
34 Commissioner of Children and Families shall determine if any address  
35 provided in said report is an address where the Department of  
36 Children and Families has [opened an investigation of a child pursuant  
37 to a report of abuse or neglect made under this chapter] an open child  
38 protective service case. If the commissioner determines that [there is an  
39 open investigation of] the department is currently providing services  
40 for a child or youth and his or her family at the same address as an  
41 address provided in said report, the commissioner shall provide the  
42 department's [investigator] social worker assigned to such child or  
43 youth and his or her family with all relevant information from said  
44 report. The department shall include the information provided to the  
45 [investigator] social worker in the department's record on the child.

46 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-100a of the general statutes is  
 47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 48 *October 1, 2014*):

49 (a) Any employee of the Department of Children and Families who,  
 50 in the course of his or her employment, has reasonable cause to suspect  
 51 that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated  
 52 cruelly in violation of section 53-247 shall make [an oral] a written  
 53 report to the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with  
 54 subsection (b) of this section.

55 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) Not later than January 1,  
 56 2015, and annually thereafter, the Commissioners of Children and  
 57 Families and Agriculture shall, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
 58 general statutes, report to the joint standing committee of the General  
 59 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children on the  
 60 number of written reports received from animal control officers and  
 61 employees of the Department of Children and Families regarding  
 62 actual or suspected instances of animal neglect or cruelty filed  
 63 pursuant to section 22-329b or 17a-100a of the general statutes, as  
 64 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	22-329b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-106d
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-100a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To clarify the process by which animal control officers and employees of the Department of Children and Families report instances of animal abuse and neglect.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*